

Incident Alert

Incident Report: 13/2009

Date/Time of Incident: 30 Aug 2009 at 1845 hrs (local time)

Location of incident: 01° 09.15' N, 103° 37.05' E

Area Description: Approximately 2.5 nm west of Pulau Nipa

Name and Type of Ship: *Good Luck*/ Bulk carrier

Details of Incident

Five men armed with two machine guns and hooks attempted to board a Cyprus-registered bulk carrier, *Good Luck* from a boat at 1845 hrs on 30 August 2009. The bulk carrier was anchored at position 01° 09.15' N, 103° 37.05' E (about 2.5 nm west of Pulau Nipa) when the attempted boarding took place. The ship master raised the alarm, and reported the incident to the Singapore's Port Operation Control Centre (POCC) and the flag state. On hearing the alarm, the men aborted the boarding and fled in a north-easterly direction. The crew was not harmed.

The Singapore's POCC initiated a broadcast to warn mariners about the incident and to maintain anti-piracy watch when passing the area. The Singapore's POCC who is also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) reported the incident to the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) and all ReCAAP Focal Points.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)

Comments by ReCAAP ISC

Past Incidents

This is the third incident reported in the vicinity of Pulau Nipa since January 2009. The previous two incidents involving tug boats, *Destiny 3* off Takong Light and *Salvicero* off Nipa Transit Anchorage on 31 March 2009 and 22 June 2009 respectively. Please see map on the location of the incidents.

The incident involving *Destiny 3* occurred at 2235 hrs when seven robbers armed with knives, shotgun and pistol boarded the tug boat while underway to Sarawak, Malaysia from Singapore. The robbers took away the ship's certificates and crew's personal belongings before leaving the ship. The incident involving *Salvicero* occurred at 1600 hrs when seven robbers in a wooden boat came alongside the



portside of *Salvicero*. Three of the robbers armed with automatic assault rifle and handguns boarded the tug boat. The crew went into the accommodation area and locked all access routes to and from the deck. They remained inside the accommodation area and sounded the alarm. The robbers attempted to enter the accommodation area but failed. They left the tug boat in their wooden boat after 10 mins. The robbers did not fire the weapons and the crew was not injured in both incidents.

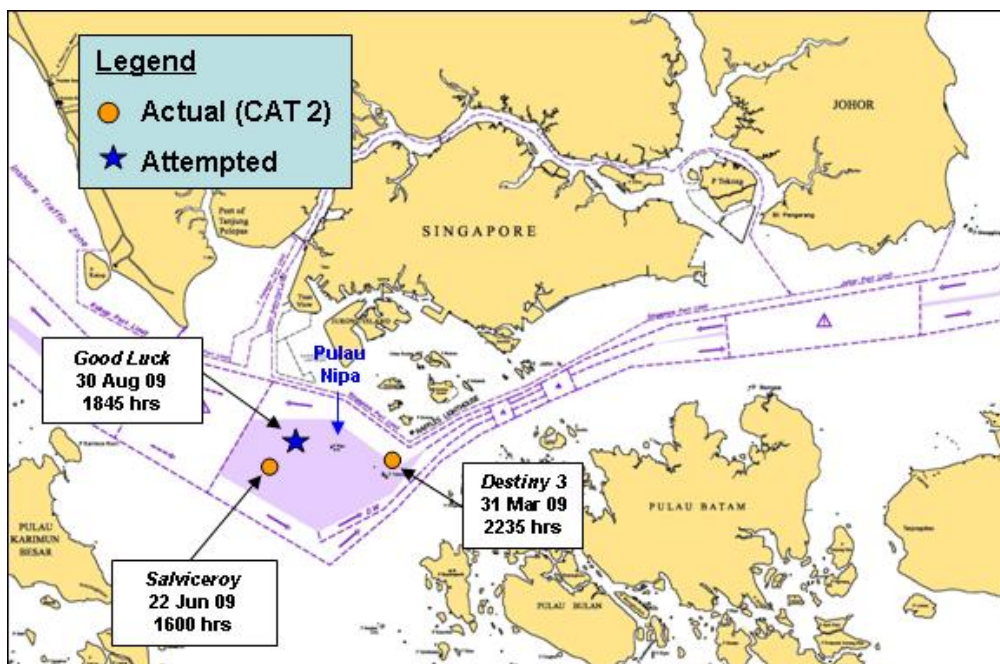
Observation

The ReCAAP ISC notes that the robbers in all three incidents were armed with guns. Notably, two of the three incidents occurred during daylight hours.

Recommendations

Ship master and crew are advised to maintain vigilance at all times and adopt countermeasures such as raising all alarm signals, mustering the crew and other measures as listed in its counter-boarding plan. Early detection of a possible attack is the most effective deterrent and reduces the risk to the crew, as evident in the latest incident involving *Good Luck*.

The ReCAAP ISC strongly advocates that ship master reports all incidents of actual and attempted incidents to the port authorities or the nearest coastal state immediately. Prompt reporting may permit the authorities to assist the ship masters, and initiate broadcast to warn other mariners operating in the area.



Approximate location of incidents

